

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 211447
ORIGIN NODS-00

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DRAFTED BY AF:RMMOOSE:HMN

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D:WCHRISTOPHER (PHONE)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 211447

NODIS

FOR CHARGE ONLY FROM DICK MOOSE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PPDC

SUBJECT:MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO GENERAL OBASANJO

REF: STATE 211409

1. YOU SHOULD URGENTLY SEEK OPPORTUNITY TO SEE OBASANJO EXPLAINING THAT YOU HAVE A LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO DELIVER (REFTEL) AND ORAL MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY VANCE QUOTE: OF A TIME SENSITIVE NATURE RELATING TO THE RHODESIA TALKS. UNQUOTE. IF POSSIBLE, WE WANT YOU TO SEE OBASANJO WHILE MUGABE IS STILL IN LAGOS (PRESS SAYS HE IS THERE AND WE KNOW FROM SENSITIVE SOURCES THAT HE SHOULD BE THERE.)

2. WHEN YOU SEE OBASANJO, YOU SHOULD TELL HIM THAT SECRETARY VANCE HOPES IT WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR THE ALL-PARTIES MEETING TO TAKE PLACE BY END AUG. WE BELIEVE TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE AND THE SECRETARY WISHES TO BE
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PRESENT TO LEND HIS SUPPORT TO EFFORT TOWARD A SETTLEMENT. A LATER DATE WILL BECOME COMPLICATED BECAUSE OF THE EARLY SEPTEMBER TALKS AT CAMP DAVID BETWEEN SADAT AND BEGIN WHICH SECRETARY MUST ALSO ATTEND. FOR THAT REASON AND BECAUSE WE HAVE NOTED A LEISURELY ATTITUDE ON NKOMO'S PART TOWARD CONVENING THE ALL-PARTIES, WE

WOULD APPRECIATE ANYTHING OBASANJO CAN DO TO MOVE EVENTS
TOWARD CONVENING THE PARTIES BY THE END OF THE MONTH.

3. IF YOU CAN NOT GET TO SEE OBASANJO, TRY TO GET HIM
A NOTE BY SAFE HAND. REPORT TO DEPARTMENT AS SOON
AS APPOINTMENT IS SET OR OTHER ARRANGEMENT MADE.

4. FYI: REGRET WE CAN NOT GIVE YOU FULL BACKGROUND
ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF MUGABE'S PRESENCE IN LAGOS.
WE ARE NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED BUT OBVIOUSLY QUITE
INTERESTED IN ANYTHING OBASANJO OR GARBA (WHO MAY BE
THE ONLY NIGERIANS KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THIS MEETING)
MAY HAVE TO SAY. VANCE

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